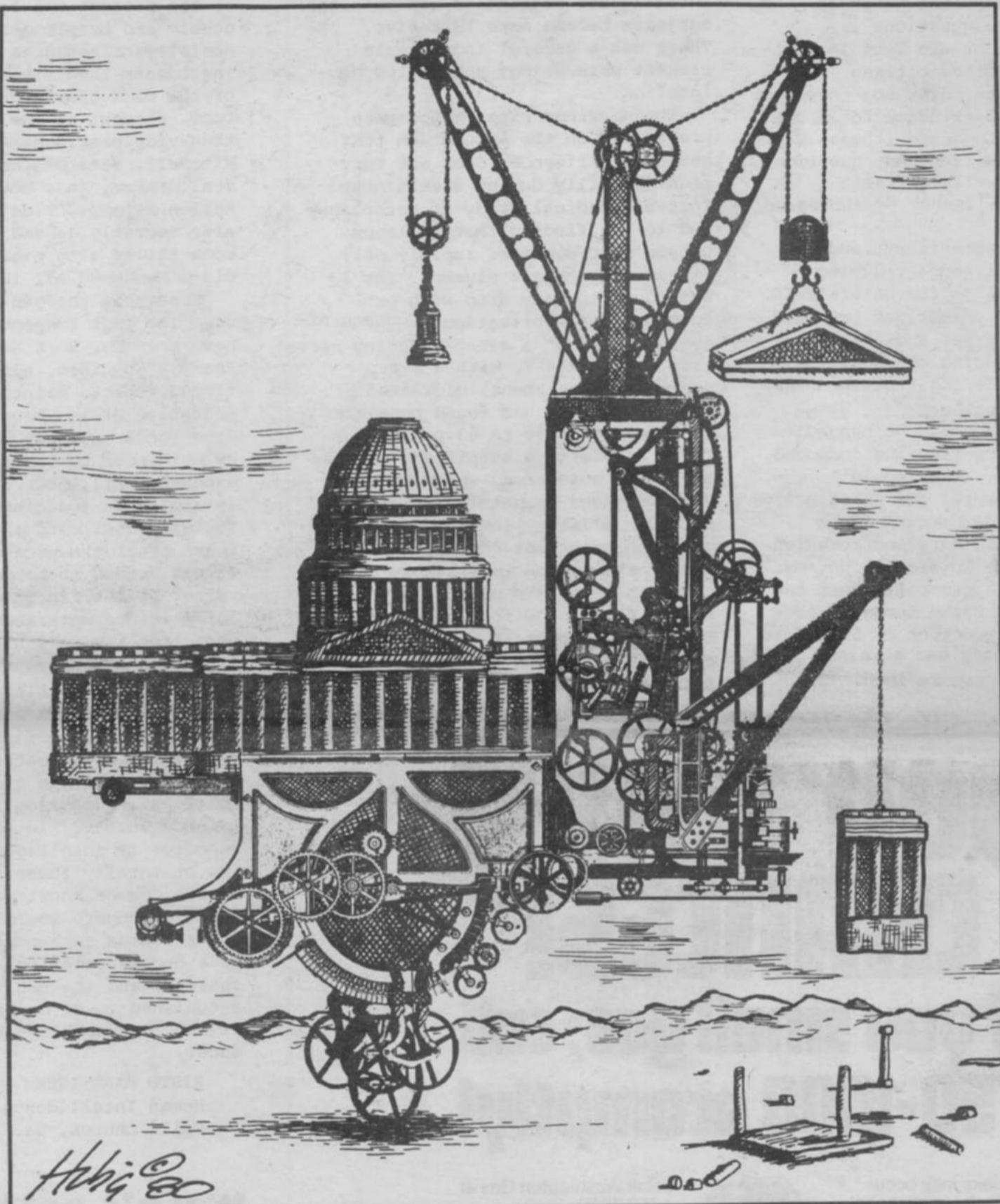


The DC Gazette

AN ALTERNATIVE JOURNAL



POLITICAL MELTDOWN

CARTER & THE POT VOTE

CHUCK STONE ON MUGABE

DC: TROUBLE ON THE BOTTOM LINE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Intelligence in the politician

KEN BRESLER mentions Will Rogers and Mark Twain in "Last Laugh on Will Rogers." The question is whether politicians are less intelligent than the average citizen. Although humorists think so, there is not scientific evidence for this assertion. Long ago it was realized that the important question is not who is more intelligent but how can intelligence be increased (or decreased.)

Early German experiments sought to develop intelligence-reducing chemicals for use on the battlefield. Later, American scientists realized that deadly nerve gas and non-lethal intelligence-reducing chemicals both were worth considering from the standpoint of national defense. If enemy combat forces could be subjected to an intelligence-reducing compound, it was theorized, they could easily be overpowered and taken prisoner. Accordingly, secret nerve gas experiments in Maryland revealed that IQs could be lowered 15 points. This spin-off was promptly named the Desensitization of Enemy Combat Capacity project. A reduction of 50 points of IQ in 15 minutes was attained when techniques were refined. The

only noticeable side effect of the intelligence retardants was that the subjects became more talkative. There was a general increase in elegant phraseology and hollow declamation.

The Maryland experiments were predicated on the assumption that human intelligences does not vary significantly during wakefulness. Instead, medical study of narcolepsy led to the finding that a sleepy person's IQ declined rapidly only immediately before slumber. The IQ was found to vary also with prolonged sleep deprivation. Consequently by "bending" a sleep-inducing nerve gas, called RIP-2, with a sleep preventative element, nicknamed Bright Eyes, it was found possible to lower IQ by 50 to 63 points. Enemy soldiers so stupified, defense officials concurred, would make US Army advances in battle easier, although military intelligence was quick to point out enemy retreat might actually be less likely because the soldiers would continue to fight if too stupified to withdraw. For these reasons it was decided early in 1969 when DECK was ready for testing outside the laboratory,

that it should be tested on civilians and that New York City would be the ideal site because the side effects would be least noticeable there.

Undercover agents began testing the odorless, tasteless gas in a large public hotel in April 1970. Important political figures were treated without their knowledge with dramatic results. Effective control of the project was lost immediately; double and triple doses were accidentally released as the administering agents themselves breathed some of the DECK gas before leaving the room. Present at the hotel were then-vice president Agnew and Martha Mitchell, wife of the attorney general. Later, in a botched assassination attempt, Fidel Castro was also secretly gassed in a Cuban room filled with cigar smoke. Some claim Muhammed Ali inhaled DECK.

Presently the gas no longer is in use. The last suspected case may have been New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, although unconfirmed reports maintain former representative Bella Abzug and actress Jane Fonda may have been victimized as evidenced by their rhetorical excesses. All known containers of intelligence-reducing gas were officially destroyed in 1979, ten years after the project commenced. It was deemed to be of no military value. Scientific attempts to reduce intelligence were abandoned by orders from the very highest sources. The unpublished reason, now widely whispered in the Library of Congress, was that the tests could make politicians appear foolish because the public, with its enthusiasm for stupendous naivete and capacity for political compassion, saw no difference whatever in politician's behavior if intelligence was high, low or totally absent. If this had become common knowledge Mark Twain and Will Rogers would have lost their status as humorists and would have become political philosophers instead; and the public would have been astonished to discover that the gas, in many cases, had nothing to reduce.

RISTO MARTTINEN
Human Intelligence Analyst
Falls Church, Va.

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However slim the chance of danger, don't take any chances. Call us if you smell gas.

Never use your gas range or oven to heat a home or apartment. This is extremely dangerous.

Washington Gas

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

Wasn't activists

IN REFERENCE to your "Outlying Precincts" article in the November issue, I would like to point out that you are in error in saying that "gay activists ***screamed 'Kill Dan White.'" As a resident of the Bay area, and a gay activist who has followed these events quite carefully, I do not think there is a single instance of a "public" gay figure or a representative of a gay group calling for the state-sanctioned death of Mr. White. In the difficult Proposition 6 campaign

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that ended victoriously shortly before Mr. White took matters into his own hands, many gay activists worked against this initiative attacking teachers who advocated acceptance of homosexuality, and Proposition 7, which strengthened the death penalty (they had the same author). While I have no doubt that many gay individuals, especially better-off white males, wished Mr. White had gotten the death penalty, that attitude by no means prevailed in the gay community, and it had no acceptance among what I would call gay activists. During this time, attitudes were marked by extreme frustration that the gay community, which had suffered escalating police harassment throughout the winter between the assassinations and the verdict, had to play by the "rules" and stick sternly to its beliefs while those in power freely ignored their own rhetoric and myths. The time around the verdict was also marked by gestures of solidarity between blacks and gays, made casually, sadly and supportively. The slogan "If You're White, It's Not Called Murder" sums up this feeling neatly.

I write because I am appalled by your flippancy, your "ability" to categorize attitudes of complex communities with a turn of the phrase, and also your comparison of community people asking for the death of an assassin who effectively murdered

progressive politics and opened up a wave of state-approved harassment with a mayor who ordered police to murder looters. I think you ought to carefully examine exactly why these two alleged truths so struck your fancy, what they meant to you. You begin to sound self-righteous and there may be some truth to this appearance. I am not happy to be made a victim once more of the these murders and that's what you did, brother.

JANE DOE
San Francisco, CA

[The term "activist" was, as you suggest, ill-chosen. The point was not. The remarks were clearly lim-



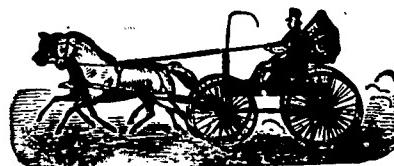
ited to those gays who cried "Kill Dan White." There was no implication, according to any normal reading of English, that it was intended to apply to anyone else, anymore than my comments on the black mayor should have been construed to apply to all black mayors. The slogan, incidentally, appeared on walls in Washington as well. The comparison was drawn, in part, because that black mayor once considered himself a "community" person also. There was nothing flippant about my remarks, only sadness. --s.s.]



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Weather Report

CIA and Savak

NEWLY released State Department documents and interviews with ex-CIA officials reveal that the agency trained the former Iranian shah's secret police force in the use of interrogation techniques. The Nation says it has obtained the documents and conducted the interviews in an effort to prove or disprove allegations that there was a close connection between the CIA and the Savak. The magazine says that one State Department document reveals that at least 179 Iranians received police and intelligence training in the US between 1963 and 1973. One of the graduates of this training program is said to have been made the chief of Savak immediately upon his return to Iran. The Nation quotes one former CIA agent as stating that the CIA set up Savak in 1957 at the then-shah's request.

CO boom

The Christian Science Monitor says that the flood of calls and letters to draft counselling services indicates that the number of young Americans seeking CO status "appears to surpass the thousands who, legally or illegally, opted out of the Vietnam War." Various counseling groups are recommending that young persons interested in CO status file statements as soon as possible outlining their pacifist beliefs. According to The Monitor, the organizations have mailed out nearly 100,000 cards and questionnaires already and they are being returned at the rate of many hundreds per day.

Kinemassic

New Scientist says that US military researchers are quietly inves-

tigating an anti-gravity propulsion system. According to the magazine, the system in question borders on something out of the pages of science fiction. It is based on the use of spinning wheels or gyroscopes to produce a "forcefield" that "neutralizes" gravity, thereby permitting an object to float above the earth. New Scientist says the research is based on patents that were granted to a US inventor named Henry Wallace nearly ten years ago. When Wallace got the patents on something he called a "kinemassic forcefield," his concepts were written off as crazy science fiction notions. Today, however, the Pentagon is apparently taking them seriously.

Health plan critique

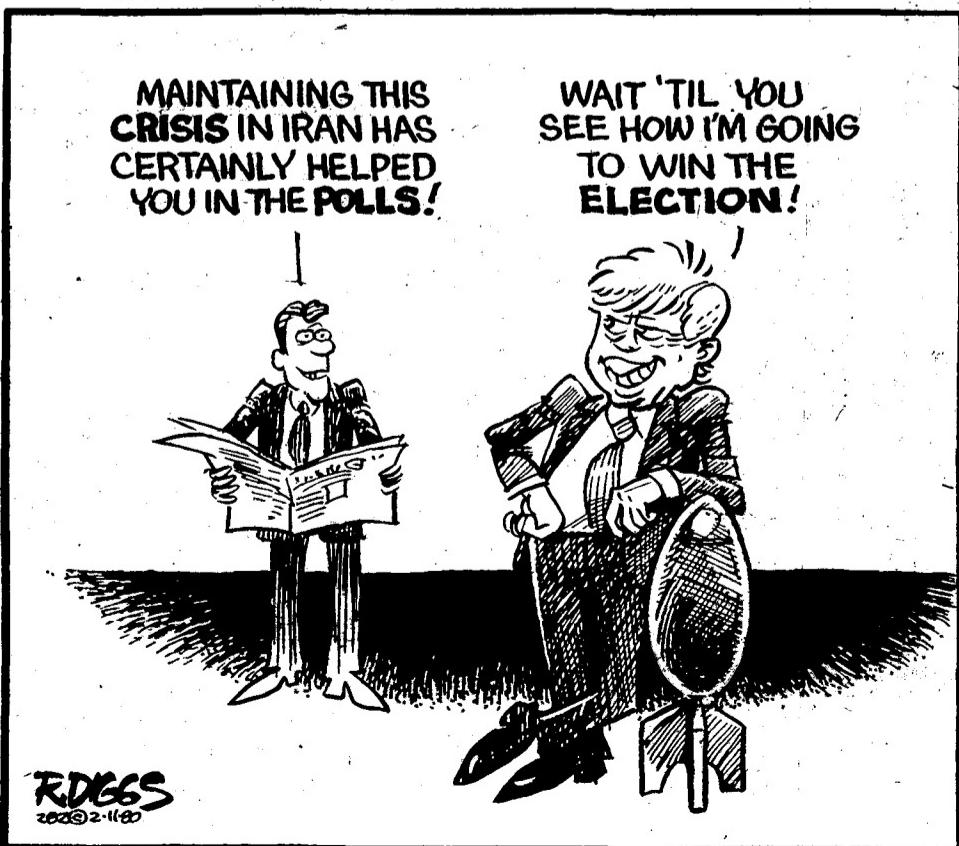
A PANEL of economists and health care specialists have warned that the proposals by President Carter and Senator Kennedy for comprehensive national health insurance will reduce the quality of health care delivery in the US and will result in greatly increased demands for health care, long delays in medical treatment, and rapidly growing costs. Their findings are contained in a study recently released by the Institute for Contemporary Studies (260 California St., San Francisco, CA 94111) called New Directions in Public Health Care. The study claims that the objectives of the legislation currently proposed in Congress are vague and focus on means and not the objective of national health insurance which is health itself. Leon Kass of the University of Chicago points out that even the most ambitious of the health insurance bills will do little to benefit the nation's health. Kass suggests that individuals themselves may quite dramatically improve their health by simply initiating small changes in their lifestyle, like giving up smoking and by eating moderately. Kass suggests that "physicians should be more interested than they

are in finding ways to keep us from their doors. Though medicine must remain in large part restorative and remedial, greater attention to healthy functioning and to regimens for becoming and remaining healthy could be very salutary, even toward the limited goal of reducing the incidence of disease. Little intelligence and imagination have thus far been expended by members of the profession or by health insurance companies to devise incentive schemes that would reward such a shift in emphasis."

The solution, the study concludes, is not to abandon the free market, but to work within it. Alain Enthoven, professor of health care economics at Stanford University, for example, sets forth a new proposal for a consumer-choice health plan. Contrary to present proposals which reimburse patient expenses no matter what the cost, Enthoven's plan provides incentives for both patients and health care providers by paying fixed dollar subsidies to those who purchase private health insurance for a qualified health care financing and delivery plan. To qualify, the health care plan would need to have non-discriminatory enrollment and premium rating systems, a common set of legally defined basic health services and agree to disclose information necessary for informed consumer choice.

According to Enthoven's proposals, giving individuals fixed dollar subsidies or tax credits would allow them to choose between competing health plans and, thus, give everyone an incentive to economize. Consumers who chose more costly health plans would pay the extra costs out of their own pocket; those who chose less costly plans would realize savings.

By competing in the free marketplace, physicians and health plans would also be cost-conscious, offering lower premiums in order to attract more patients and insurance customers. Rewards for economizing would be extended to all Americans without having to increase the cost and decrease the quality of health care, the report says.

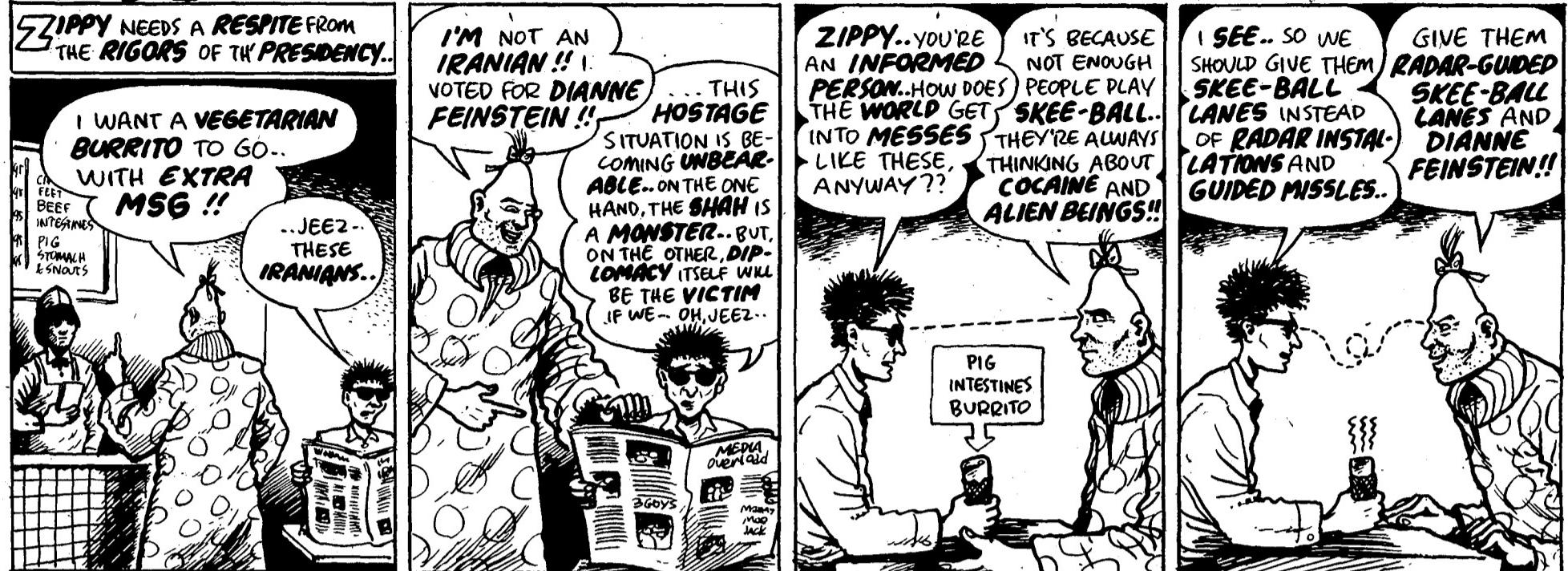


Spying on King

RECENTLY released government documents obtained by The Los Angeles Times have revealed that the CIA spied on civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in the sixties in an effort to discredit King as a black leader.

The Times reports the documents, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, show that CIA informants gathered records of King's telephone calls and photocopied some of his credit card receipts as well as miscellaneous messages scrawled on business cards. The documents include one CIA agent's suggestion that King be "removed" as a black leader and replaced by a "clean Negro leader." The memo suggests that King's ouster "come from within, not from without" the civil rights movement. The informant warned that if King were forcibly re-

ZIPPY



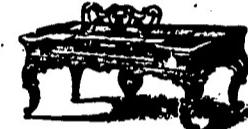
moved by whites, it would make him a martyr. The Times says it believes the documents provide the first evidence that the CIA spied on King.

Copping copper

A SOLAR ENERGY LOBBY group claims that big oil is attempting to take

control of solar energy development by cornering the market for copper. Sunrae, a California solar group say that researchers at the University of California have found that 33 percent of the domestic copper market is now owned outright by the oil companies. Adding joint ventures and joint directorships, the petroleum giants exert almost total in-

direct influence of the US copper industry. The Copper Development Association estimates that every solar installation currently requires about 96 pounds of copper.



Paul Krassner

- Bob Hope will begin a tour of embassies around the world to entertain the troops holding ambassadors hostage.

- Patty Hearst will be kidnapped again. However, there will be a total press blackout on the incident.

- It will be learned that earthquakes have been consistently triggered by underground nuclear bomb tests. This knowledge will prove to be a tremendous aid in predicting future earthquakes.

- A famous Nobel Prize winner will be arrested for indecent exposure. His defense will be that he was simply making a night deposit at the sperm bank.

- In a candid autobiography, Candice Bergen will confess her childhood affair with Charlie McCarthy. She will explain that the romance left her with no emotional scars, just a few splinters.

- There will be a black market in seeing eye parrots smuggled from Mexico.

- Three astronauts in various parts of the country will experiment with ESP and the trio will simultaneously suffer from whiplash.

- Moms Mabley will be immortalized on a postage stamp.

- Hair spray with multi-vitamins will become popular after a generous plug from former first lady Betty Ford.

- Senator S. I. Hayakawa will sponsor a right-to-sleep bill.

- FBI agents will entrap gays by feeling them up in audiences attending screenings of the film Cruising.

- Researchers will uncover evidence that real force behind the Moonies is not the Korean CIA but Japanese industrialists connected with the Trilateral Commission.

- Senator Larry Pressler will be drafted for the Republican presidential race simply because he turned down a bribe.

- A new TV game show will actually accompany newlyweds on their honeymoon.

- David Rockefeller will refuse to cooperate with Jimmy Carter's request that the Chase Manhattan Bank stop doing business with Russia until they pull their troops out of Afghanistan. Carter will complain that American money is financing the invasion until Rockefeller threatens to fire him.

- A compromise will be reached on the issue of women in the military. They will be drafted on an equal basis with men, but will get one-third less combat pay.

- NBC's Jane Pauley will get in trouble for leaking top secret media information to Garry Trudeau.

- As a result of Ronald Reagan's ethnic joke, Mafia leaders will switch their support to John Anderson.

- After the Iranian hostages are released, Hodding Carter will become a circus clown. He will be called the Emmett Kelly of the '80s.

- The three networks will bid higher than ever before for the TV rights to Being There.

- FDA researchers will discover that what actually gets people high

- is not marijuana, but smoking the glue in cigarette papers.

- The international commission will sentence the ex-shah to three whacks in the ass by a Los Angeles school principal.

- Southern California will see a spate of ark franchises.

Action Notes

MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL, a coalition of peace groups, is planning a series of anti-weapons protests as part of what it calls "Survival Summer." Survival Summer will begin with the April 26 march for a non-nuclear world and will continue through election day with door-to-door canvassing, teach-ins and neighborhood forums. The strategy is modelled on the civil rights "Freedom Summer" of 1964 and the anti-war Vietnam summer of 1967. Info: Mobilization for Survival in Philadelphia (215-386-4875) or in San Francisco (415-982-6988).

MULTINATIONAL MONITOR is a new monthly magazine sponsored by Ralph Nader which explores the role of multinational corporations overseas. The February issue contains articles on Kaiser Aluminum's extraordinarily profitable relationship with the government of Ghana, corporate

influence on the United Nations and the impact of corporate activity on Puerto Rico. Subscriptions are \$15 for individuals, \$20 for non-profit institutions and \$30 for business institutions. Write Multinational Monitor, PO Box 19367, DC 20036.

THE PROGRESSIVE MAGAZINE has published a reader on nuclear power called Time Bomb. It contains 128 pages of articles from the Progressive on the subject. \$3.50 a copy from the Progressive Foundation, 315 West Gorham Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

A NEW NATIONAL coalition of rent control groups has been formed. More than fifty tenant groups from around the country are involved. Info: National Committee for Rent Control, 380 Main Street, East Orange, NJ 07018 (201-678-6778).

A SURVEY OF TECHNIQUES used by community groups to resist displacement is available from the National Urban Coalition, 1201 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20036. It's called Neighborhood Transition Without Displacement. Sorry, but we don't have the cost.

VERSTWHILE GAZETTE CONTRIBUTOR Jim Ridgeway has written a book on experimental energy programs started by local communities. Energy Efficient Community Planning is available from the JG Press, Box 351, Emmaus, Pa. 18049. \$9.95.

THE COALITION FOR A NON-NUCLEAR WORLD: The Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World is planning demonstrations and other events including an April 26 march and rally in Washington. Info: Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World, 236 Mass. Ave. NE #506, DC 20002. 202-544-5228.

BIG BUSINESS DAY: Ralph Nader, John Kenneth Galbraith, James Farmer, Douglas Fraser, Patsy Mink and others are organizing a Big Business Day, to be observed April 17. The day's central event will be a "corporate constitutional convention" when over 500 delegates from across the country will meet in Washington to set up alternative boards of directors for about 15 major corporations. The shadow boards will meet regularly to gather information, discuss policy, and make corporate decisions concerning their companies. They also plan to publish annual reports. The organizers are looking for people to help put the event together. Write Big Business Day, 1346 Conn. Ave. NW #411, DC 20036 for information or call 202-861-0456.



Outlying Precincts

Sam Smith

MARCH 19: If I follow my own rules, one of which states that minority candidates are only worth supporting if they can get at least ten percent of the vote, I need a new presidential candidate. Yet here it is only March, and I'm being told that my choices are Ronald Reagan or Jimmy Carter. This isn't a campaign; it's a political meltdown.

Jerry Brown, the one candidate of either party who has thought beyond the next fiscal year, has been brutally beaten into obscurity by a media that can't stand anyone who defies traditional wisdom. Brown has suffered far worse treatment than Gen McCarthy (for whom reporters had a grudging respect) or Fred Harris (whom no one could dislike), and, in fact, is probably the most mistreated and misunderstood major presidential candidate of the last couple of decades.

The Des Moines debate might have overcome the problem of a viciously antagonistic press, but our hidden president managed to scuttle that and no good breaks followed. As David Harris wrote in a belatedly serious look at Brown in the March 9 New York Times Magazine, "There is wide belief among reporters who have covered Brown, and watched both Kennedy and Carter as well, that, had the debate actually taken place, the California governor could have inflicted damage on both his opponents."

Pouring salt on the wounds, the press ridiculed the genuinely interesting political thinking of Brown, while hyping the candidacy of its favorite minor candidate: John Anderson. Anderson could have gotten the also-ran treatment; he could have been made to look silly running



"ANOTHER CASE OF MALAISE, I'M AFRAID! WE'VE HAD AN EPIDEMIC EVER SINCE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY."

in a party that has the world's largest remaining reserves of 19th century ideology, but he wasn't. He was handled with extraordinary kindness and voters were constantly being reminded that here was someone worth listening to. As Jack Germond and Jules Witcover fawned on February 27, "Anderson talks up to the voters, not down to them. He gives them credit for having some sense. His assumption is that complex positions can be made understood and that voters will accept hard truths."

Why those words about Anderson and not Brown? Simply put, Anderson represents a viewpoint within the narrow journalistically acceptable political spectrum and Brown does not.

You could replicate a dozen Andersons during a three-day training course at any one of your better

polling firms. He represents nothing more extraordinary than the median point of American political thought. The only reason he seems different is because the Republican Party has traditionally tried to lag behind public opinion by about five years. The voters don't seem to mind, in fact they find it reassuring to have someone in office not quite as foolhardy as they might be. Anderson appears novel because he has philosophically advanced to the opinion of the average voter.

The New York Times recently printed a graph that correlated the views of the various candidates' supporters on six major issues with those of the average Democrat, Republican and independent --and the average of all voters. On a scale of 40 from most liberal to most conservative, Anderson's supporters were 8/10ths of a point to the right

of the average voter. By contrast Carter's were six points to the left and Ford's were six points to the right of the average voter, while Kennedy's were 19 points to the left and Reagan's 17 points to the right. Anderson has clearly found his spot on the political spectrum.

To pass this off as creative thought or telling the people the truth is rot. All Anderson is doing is agreeing with them.

Furthermore, it is bad enough to lambast Jerry Brown for accepting and dealing with the realities of Proposition 13 while ignoring Carter and Kennedy in their equally substantial flipflops; it is far worse to pawn off as a paragon of consistent virtue a man who proposes today a 50-cent-a-gallon tax on gas who voted five years ago against a 20-cent-a-gallon tax. Add to this the annotated liberal darling's record of having voted against UN bonds, foreign aid, public service jobs, food stamps, mass transit aid, Medicare, the war-on-poverty and on behalf of the war in Vietnam, the current canonization of John Anderson becomes almost obscene.

I have, at times like these, a tendency to develop conspiracy theories. But unlike most such speculators I believe that many conspiracies require no direction, thought or planning. The best conspiracies are like found art, an aesthetic that exists without intent. In the case of found conspiracies, they tend to be so culturally entrenched and that any conscious direction is merely icing on the cake. David Rockefeller doesn't have to lift a finger for things to happen the way he wants, anymore than fall has to tell a leaf to drop off a tree. It just happens.

Having said that, let me outline my found conspiracy amongst the Republicans this year:

Before the campaign, the eastern Republicans were in serious trouble, having no strong candidate to send into the traditional struggle with the western Republicans, who had two powerful alternatives: Reagan and Connally. What to do?

The answer was simple: let a lot of candidates run, give them a chance to show their stuff; in short, use the primary system the way the clout-endowed have traditionally used it: as a form of fraternity rush. So the whole gang went out, Baker, Bush, Dole, Crane, and Anderson. For awhile, it looked as if Bush was going to prove most honest, trustworthy, loyal, brave, etc., but then he blew his cool and Anderson started coming up. There seems little doubt that Bush is precisely the sort of fellow those who like to run things.

without running for them would have wanted in the presidency. But they didn't know for sure. At some point the voters do have a say. Better that it be in Massachusetts and Illinois than all across the nation in November. Anderson, I suspect, has been, all along, a designated hitter for Bush et al in case they faltered for political or personal reasons.

But why not Jerry Ford? Ford himself asked that question and when he did he came up with a surprising answer: no thanks. Here was the Republican candidate who would probably have the best chance of defeating Carter and the GOP reacted with extreme indifference.

While this may partially be ascribed to normal Republican masochism there is at least a chance that Ford's independence helped do him in. He reached the White House without in-service training by the eastern Republican establishment and once there managed to build his own constituency. As such, he may have

represented more of a threat than even Anderson.

How, one may ask, will the extra-political elite get along with a man so dedicated to honesty and independent thought? To answer that question, I draw your attention to the last Trilateralist elected president: Jimmy Carter. In the now seemingly distant past the American public was largely convinced that Carter was running against the system. Maybe even Carter thought so too. In which case everyone was misled. The truth is that Carter has been absorbed into the establishment's sphere of influence with all the ease of spilled Coke being sopped up by a Charmin towel.

His remaining independence is largely stylistic. Andy Young has been fired, the most flagrant of the good old boys have been sent packing back to Georgia and Ham and Jody have been reined in for the duration. Chip Carter has even, according to High Times, promised not to smoke pot until after the election.

Carter is now comfortably within the system, although, one hopes, somewhat to the embarrassment of those who helped make it so.

John Anderson appears another case of subversion in independent drag. He, like Carter, has come out of nowhere demanding change without even mildly frightening those who should be most worried about change. I suspect that he, like Carter, would bitterly disappoint some of his most ardent present supporters.

A pause for non-issues

Besides, there are two things about Anderson that bother me despite their obvious irrelevancy to sane and considered political choice. The first problem is his eyes. If I



College Press Service

ran into either Carter or Anderson leaning against a wall on 14th Street I would swear they were hopped up. If I found either of them lying on a desk I would be tempted to stick four AA batteries in their mouth and look for their memory recall button. Neither Carter's nor Anderson's eyes are in sync with what they are saying or alleged to be feeling at a particular moment. When I see them on TV I find myself staring irrationally at their irises as if inside there might be a little man waving his fingers and hands to translate their words back into their thoughts for the benefit of the aurally impaired. Anderson, to be sure, lacks Carter's grotesque way of smiling just when he is coming to the most serious part of his sentence, but he still has what might be called the presidential glaze. Given that Nixon had it too, it is, perhaps, worth noting.

The second problem is that Anderson presents himself as a profoundly religious man. He tells us, "I prayed over [my] initial decision to seek public office, just as I have prayed over every major decision in my life."

This is all very well and good, but history tells us that the politicians who pray the most loudly are not necessarily the best. I prefer to think of the Lord as an uncommitted delegate and think we do better with those politicians who are either agnostic or theologically discreet. The problem is not only the tendency to create a rigidity based on non-political considerations, hence difficult to criticize or debate, but also a tendency to draw too close a parallel between God's will and one's own. LBJ, you may recall, really started going downhill after he began visits with his little monk and Richard Nixon treated the heavenly kingdom with all the respect of a Democratic national headquarters.

Boston Globe columnist Mike Barnicle recently told of a car ride he took with Jimmy Carter four years ago. He asked Carter whether he had ever been afraid. "No," said Carter, "my faith in God has prevented me from knowing fear."

Such emotions are fine for saints, but can be rather hazardous

for politicians and people in automobiles.

Anderson seems to share Carter's moral exhibitionism --in contrast, say, with Brown who told a reporter: "I'm not going to express my spiritual views of the world. If you exploit your spiritual life, you run the risk of destroying it."

Suffice it to say, I find John Anderson's peculiar political history and his showy conversion to conventionalism far more disturbing than either his eyeballs or his Calvinism. But no one else is discussing the issues this year so why the hell should I?

What's left?

As I write, the Wisconsin primary is yet to come and I am clinging to the hope that in some mysterious way our salvation will come out of that last great stronghold of political common sense, the upper mid-west. But I tend to doubt it. It looks like the only alternative we are going to have is either to support Kennedy or forget about politics.

The option of not-voting has some



would reinstall Jimmy Carter. If Carter has gotten this bad in four years, think what he can do in eight.

We should remember that we are not only electing candidates, we are choosing a way of doing business. We are promoting shifts in power and the progress or retardation of certain ideas. The Kennedy galaxy, regardless of Kennedy's own failings, has fewer rogue meteors than the Carter one.

Finally, I have this gut feeling that if this nonsense goes on much longer and those of us who don't like any of the major candidates just sit on the sidelines, we're not going to feel happy about it a few years down the road. It's not that I will be thrilled about having supported Kennedy. It's just that it's getting close to the point that I'm damned to see what other choice is left. As a constituent once told a badly-flawed reform candidate for mayor in Philadelphia, "You ain't much, baby, but you're all we've got."



merit, but, this year, not much. Neither Carter nor Reagan have any aversion to apathy; in fact they have thrived on it. Nonparticipation is only useful when it helps to force change. There doesn't seem much likelihood of that this year.

Kennedy is, to be sure, a weak voice for change. His health-care plan is wrongly-directed, his criminal law recodification bill stinks, his personal life is a mess; his approach to the mid-east is hardly likely to produce peace there and his demonstrated ability to think beyond the ordinary is marginal.

Still these are times when we can't be too picky. The most important thing at the moment is to stop Jimmy Hoover and Ronald Harding.

While Kennedy has fouled up his personal life, Carter has fouled up a whole country. While Kennedy has, apparently under the influence, proved to be irresponsible, Carter is irresponsible while cold sober. And while Kennedy has numerous political inadequacies, the coalition that might put him in office is a great improvement over that which



Cycled fish

I CONFESS to a little sadness that Howard "The Question Is: What Did He Ever Do and When Did He Do It?" Baker dropped out of the race. My interest in Baker picked up after I learned that one of his favorite meals is "Dishwasher Fish." To make this delicacy you clean and dress a whole fish or use fish fillets, then wrap them tightly with spices and lemon juice inside thick layers of aluminum foil. You then place the fish on the top rack of an automatic dishwasher and run it through the complete cycle once. If it's a big fish, you do it twice. Baker warns that you should make sure there is no soap in the dishwasher before commencing to cook with it. Any candidate with such gastronomic imagination can't be all bad.



Chuck Stone

Last month 2.7 million voters sent Senators S.I. Hayakawa and Jesse Helms a special eight-word message that thundered out of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia like a herd of stampeding elephants: "Don't tell us how to run our country." Hayakawa and Helms had sponsored the white Rhodesians' hand-picked prime minister, Abel Muzorewa, in a trip last year to win US support for his puppet government. It failed as black Americans led a campaign to reject him. With 62.9 percent of the popular vote, Robert Mugabe won a 57-seat majority of the 100-seat Assembly. Since 20 seats are reserved for whites, Mugabe's 57 seats were bigger than anything Richard Daley ever dreamed of pulling off. Joshua Nkomo, Mugabe's Patriotic Front partner and father of Rhodesian nationalism, won 20 seats. The Hayakawa-Helms-South African candidate, Muzorewa, barely survived with three seats.

Zimbabweans are your penultimate political animals. "Send two Zimbabweans to the moon," goes an African joke, "and they will form three political parties." They're also just like Americans. They tend to vote their ethnicity, religion and region.

A significant factor of Mugabe's crushing victory was his membership in the Mashona ethnic group. (American reporters invariably refer to such groups as "tribes.")

Mashonas account for almost 80 percent of the country's 7 million people, while Nkomo's Matabele people make up about ten percent, Europeans about three percent and the rest is scattered among other ethnic groups.

Muzorewa is also a Mashona. There's a parallel here to the black American experience. Apparently, Zimbabweans makes distinctions between "house Mashonas" and "field Mashonas."

Ethnicity, however is no substitute for organization and few can match Mugabe's talent for organizing the troops.

While the sybaritic Nkomo who started the nationalist ball rolling 23 years ago was growing fat and comfortable, the ascetic-living Mugabe had started raising an 18,000 man army after his release from prison in 1974. The army was based in Mozambique where the prime ministers, Samora Machel, is a fellow marxist.

More than any other issue, Mugabe's marxism morbidly consumes Rhodesian whites and the South African and American governments. It obscures his Catholic religion, baptism of his son as a Catholic and his fondness for Pat Boone as an entertainer.

Four other realities are clouded by the obsession with Mugabe's marxism:

- Africans do not trade colonialists. Having driven Europeans out of power and American influence out of

control, Africans are not about to embrace Russians as displaced masters.

- African socialism is unique to that continent's communal life.
- Marxism in Africa cannot be equated alone with oppression. Africa's most brutal despots -- Idi Amin, Jean Bedel Bokassa, Macias Nguema Giyogo, P. W. Botha and Sese Mobutu -- are not marxists. Moreover, Mobutu survives only as an American puppet.

- A marxist government does not preclude favorable trade agreements with western democracies. Over fifty percent of marxist Mozambique's foreign exchange is earned in trade with its despised southern neighbor, South Africa. The late president of Angola, Agostinho Neto, had set up Sonangol, a state-controlled oil company, that aggressively solicited American capitalists as partners. Mugabe will nationalize industries and redistribute some land but he won't bankrupt the country's booming economy.

Two years ago, when I visited Rhodesia, I found widespread Mugabe

sentiment, especially among college students and young people working in stores. I also found an intense pride among educated and professional blacks who bitterly discussed the contradictions in their lives. "Look at me," said E.W. Chamba, a handsome black advertising executive as we ate lunch. "I can go into restaurants and eat because they know me. But most of my people can't. It is very bad."

After Muzorewa became prime minister, his puppet status was painfully broadcast when the chief of the armed forces, Lt. Gen. Peter Walls, arrogantly ordered strikes during delicate peace negotiations. Voters also did not forget the pivotal role of Mugabe's "boys in the bush" in the war for independence.

S

Once again, America backed a wrong horse in Africa. How does one explain America's neurotic need to dash all over Africa, betting on losers? First, Angola; then Zimbabwe, and now Zaire, Namibia and South Africa. In the sweepstakes for African trust, Soviet communism is not America's biggest obstacle. American arrogance is.

Carter and the pot vote

FRANK BROWNING

Cast against the shivering fears of a new cold war, the concerns of American pot smokers might seem to be the least important issue facing President Carter in his campaign for re-election. But proponents of a liberalized national drug policy played an important role in Jimmy Carter's election, and now they aren't likely to forget the president as quickly as he forgot them.

Carter not only launched his presidential bid on the proceeds from dope-smoky rock concerts, but some of his closest advisors

credited his narrow 1976 victory margin to the millions of young marijuana smokers who expected Carter to end federal laws against pot smoking. Midway through that campaign Carter became the first presidential candidate in American history to promise decriminalization of marijuana for personal use. Now, four years later, he is the candidate least likely to win support of the so-called "pot lobby."

How Carter lost the support of the pro-marijuana advocates is not only one of the quirky sidelights to Washington politics, but it also illustrates changing policies within the federal government toward drug abuse.

Most of the original enthusiasm dope smokers had for Jimmy Carter stemmed from his appointment of Peter Bourne, a physician well known for his liberal views on drug and cocaine use, as the chief White House drug



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policy advisor. Bourne, most observers believed, would curtail the influence of the Drug Enforcement Administration and other police agencies. At first that appeared to be the direction White House policy would go.

Keith Stroup, the founder and former director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, had long been a friend of Bourne's and was an early supporter of Carter. The early days of the Carter administration were heady days for Stroup.

"After all those years on the outside, suddenly it looked like we were going to be insiders. It was like we were all working on the same side for a change," he said in a recent interview. Stroup was a regular at the White House, a man who commanded respect from the press and Washington's inside social circles.

By mid-summer, 1977, when the president announced he would soon present a drug policy message to Congress, Stroup's influence had grown so great that he wrote the first draft of the President's speech—including a specific pledge to decriminalize the private use of marijuana.

"It was a very special sort of marriage we had in those days," said Robert Carr, then a drug task force coordinator for the President's Commission on Mental Health. "Marijuana smoking in public was fairly widespread and pretty casual. There was a sense of celebration that smokers were finally out of the closet and could socialize with people of high esteem."

Under Bourne's leadership, Carr said, there was a general belief that the Carter administration was going to transform the entire direction of federal drug policy, concentrating law enforcement only on heroin and other hard narcotics. That expectation was further reinforced by the casual availability of marijuana among even top White House staff.

The so-called permissive drug policy might well have redirected the entire federal effort on drug abuse but for two devastating events:

- the spraying of Mexican marijuana fields with paraquat supplied by the Drug Enforcement Administration spawned a health panic among marijuana users in spring, 1978, and an angry exchange between NORML and Peter Bourne who supported the program;
- Bourne was compromised by revelations in June, 1978, that he had written a phony description for Quaalude depressants for a staff member, then was later forced to resign. Six months later, NORML's Stroup told the

press that Bourne had snorted cocaine at the organization's annual party.

"The departure of Peter Bourne from the White House marked the beginning of the end of any kind of enlightened drug policy in America," advisor Bob Carr says. "Beyond the White House there was a retreat on all fronts and considerable distrust. The coalition just fell apart."

With Bourne out, Stroup and the rest of the NORML staff had become personae non gratae with the same White House staffers who had previously been so friendly.

Said one former top speech writer, "Dope? There's really nothing in it for Carter anymore. The only reason Jimmy bothered with the drug question at all was that it was Peter Bourne's specialty. He owed Bourne a lot. Bourne was his first big liberal champion in Washington during the early campaign. But with Bourne gone, and stories floating around that the White House was a dope den, the issue was too hot to walk the wire with it. It's not that the White House shifted to a hard line. It's just that nobody there was making any drug policy so the direction was left to the DEA, which has always taken the hard line against grass."

Officially the Carter administration still supports decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana for personal use. Lee Dogoloff, formerly Bourne's assistant and now the official administration spokesman, says he does "not agree with the notion of putting young persons in jail for the first offense of a one-time small amount of marijuana." However, he has been far more outspoken in campaigning against the dangers of marijuana than he has on pressing Congress for decriminalization. Clearing up a "general misunderstanding about the White House position," Dogoloff told a Defense Department conference on drug abuse last summer: "The administration strongly opposes the use of marijuana and is taking several actions to further discourage its use in this country."

Besides the new hard line anti-grass speeches, Dogoloff has worked closely with the DEA Director Peter Bensinger in support of congressional hearings aimed at outlawing drug paraphernalia — a campaign regarded by the pot lobbyists at NORML as blatantly unconstitutional. Staff members at the House Committee on Narcotics as well as Senate committee staff whose job it is to follow drug policy say that the administration has given almost free rein to Bensinger and the DEA.

ECO-SLIPS

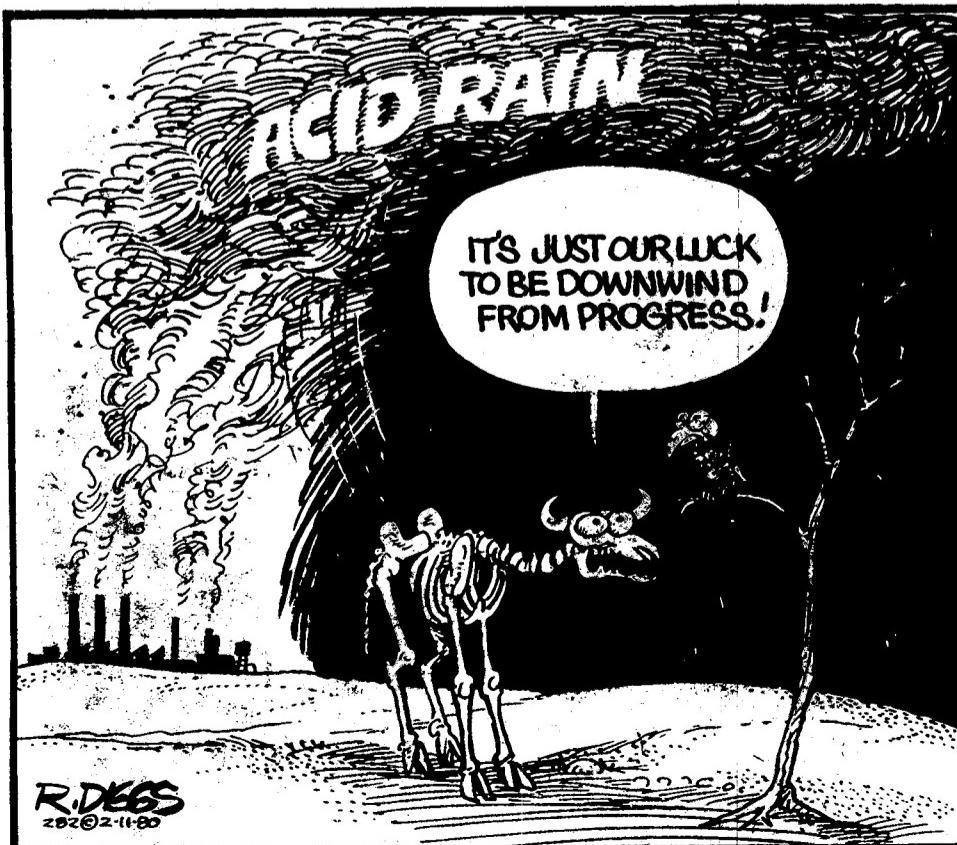
• TIM BUJA, a senior at the University of Illinois, found a surprise while reading a flier advertising an anti-draft protest on campus. It was his resume printed on the back of the notice. In fact, several student resumes were found on the backs of the fliers printed for the Stop the Draft Committee. The printer who produced the fliers says he used "scrap paper" to try to "keep the job in [the committee's] budget." Two weeks earlier, the dean of students at UCLA was found to be using the blank side of private student transcripts as scratch paper.

DEA spokesman Con Dougherty acknowledges that his agency has taken the lead in setting policy and the policy is very different from the Carter campaign commitments of four years ago. Speaking of several tough anti-marijuana speeches made by DEA Director Bensinger, Dougherty explained that "he wanted to make it clear that the federal government would not decriminalize marijuana."

Dougherty added, "The White House is not making any bones about making the DEA the lead agency in drug enforcement and also the expert on what's going on with drugs. We don't have to wait for the White House to decide we're going to crack down. We're the experts."

Walter Shapiro, a former Labor Department official and Carter speech writer who worked in the first campaign, attributes the shift to the problems of running an incumbent campaign. "Drugs were a big issue in '76 and Carter could attack the failures and abuses of the Republicans. But now the Democrats — Kennedy, Brown and Carter — see drugs as nothing more than an embarrassment. The thing is, now the Democratic constituency is split down the middle on drugs: 50 per cent are opposed to a more permissive position, 25 per cent favor and 25 per cent are on the fence. They just want to make drugs as low key an issue as possible to avoid trouble. A sell out on a vital issue? Actually, it's just that you've got to realize that drugs are not a good issue for Democrats."

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Direct mail democracy

SETH ROSENFIELD

"IF YOU have the money," says California political campaign specialist Don Sizemore, "you just push a few buttons on the computer and you get an initiative in less than 30 days, and if you do it right, you make money."

Is that any way to run a democracy?

Perhaps not, but thanks to some recent technological innovations on the direct voter initiative process, by which citizens place issues directly on the ballot, the gentle, human art of politics is undergoing some startling changes.

"Politicians and voters don't really understand the impact technology can have on the political process," says Sizemore, a former aide to Republican California state senator John Briggs. Sizemore and his former employer do understand the impacts, largely because they invented the computerized direct mail petitioning process which, Sizemore claims, has "revolutionized California politics."

The techniques are now being studied in a handful of the other 23 states that provide for direct voter ballot initiatives, and some politicians are anticipating the application of the method to enact national legislation.

Briggs first introduced the direct mail petitioning technique in 1978 as a way to eliminate the costly and time consuming task of having volunteers and staff workers solicit petition signatures in door-to-door campaigns or in shopping centers.

With the help of an Orange County political consulting firm, Butcher-Forde, Briggs turned to a computer to target conservative-minded voters and then mailed them a slick packet soliciting their signatures for a harsh death penalty initiative he was sponsoring.

Recipients of the packet—which featured a black man pointing a gun at a judge's head and the warning: "Your life is in danger"—had only to sign name and birth date in two places, check one of several donation boxes and return the postpaid envelope. A postscript urged haste: "Important: This petition was made possible by the \$20 contribution of the (name) family of (town). If you fail to return this petition that contribution will go to waste. OFFICIAL DOCUMENT: RETURN IMMEDIATELY."

"This combination of psychological, personal and custom petition factors had enormous impact. People had never been exposed to anything so sophisticated," said Sizemore. He believes that "the initiative process is the perfect response to those who say democracy is decadent and dying."

The technique worked a near miracle.

Briggs' death penalty measure qualified for the ballot with the highest percentage of verified signatures in the history of the state at the time. It also earned its sponsor almost \$100,000 in contributions, a remarkable feat given that most initiatives are costly to qualify.

The key to the direct mail initiative's power is its low cost per vote, (estimated by Harvey Englander, a senior associate with Butcher-Forde, as about 25 cents per mailing) and its sure-fire, targeted appeal.

"It all boils down to what a candidate can pull from already existing political history," said Herb Sosnick of Direct Mail Marketing, one of San Francisco's largest politically-oriented direct mail firms. With extensive computerized election data, Sosnick said he can "pick out all the voters—conservative, Republican or liberal—who will best support my candidate. And that's the important thing about direct mail—I can tailor my message to any group of people I want to."

"With direct mail, I can speak with forked tongue," Sosnick said. "If I'm a Republican candidate I can make myself sound like a Democrat. If I'm a Democrat I can make myself sound like a Republican. I'm not saying a goddamn thing, but I get their support. It all sounds very appealing."

Because Briggs withheld almost all expenditures on Proposition 7—the death penalty measure—after it had qualified, and because Proposition 7's opponents had little money, there was little debate. Shortly before the election Sizemore reported, "Outside of the voter's pamphlet there is nothing going on. There just is no discussion."

"Debate makes voters uncomfortable," Sizemore explained, citing a Harvard study of voter psychology. "You have to think, and thinking is hard work. Nobody likes a strong clash of opinions. People like nice things, they like to be told how to vote." The measure passed.

In the same election, Briggs also sponsored another initiative—to bar homosexuals from teaching in public schools. He used conventional methods to qualify it for the ballot. It drew much debate and organized opposition, further deflecting attention from the death penalty measure, and was defeated.

In this way, inadvertently, according to Sizemore, Briggs invented the "stalking horse" initiative strategy.

"Briggs exposed a flaw," Sizemore explained. "Liberals can't handle more than one issue at a time." With divide and conquer theory, the stalking horse initiative is "something that draws the fire but doesn't really mean that much to you. You'd throw as much money as possible into it to heat it up and make it look like it had a chance of passing. Meanwhile, the important, significant issue that's going to have impact for years goes on an end run and passes," he said.

"There is no calm or rational approach if you have a stalking horse initiative drawing all the heat and fire. The important issue will pass with only peripheral discussion," he said.

While Sizemore said that the stalking horse strategy occurred accidentally last year, he predicted that, "Probably in 1984 you'd have a good year for a deliberate test of the approach. With Proposition 7 technology you could qualify two or three initiatives, just to split the vote. It could be devastating," he said. "Just deadly."

Englander said that Butcher-Forde is already talking to people in Arizona, Florida, Missouri, Illinois and New York who want to use the direct mail initiative in 1980, and that he is "sure there would be clients interested in having items and initiatives put on the national ballot" with direct mail.

While there is currently no national initiative system, Roger Telshow, national director of the Washington, D.C.-based "Initiative America", said that Senate Joint Resolution 33, which would amend the Constitution to create a national initiative process similar to existing state initiative systems, had a "really terrific" first hearing in the Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee on the Constitution in December, 1977. He estimates that "within four years" such a ballot will pass.

If it does, Telshow said, "I'm sure direct mail would be used. Any method and strategy that is politically viable will be applied to the initiative...that means massive corporate spending, public debate, grass roots campaigns and endorsements."

Another view was offered during the Senate sub-committee hearings by Temple University political scientist Peter Bachrach, who testified against the national initiative.

"First, it is class-biased. The political arena which it creates will be pre-empted by the groups that have money, organization, political skill and power," he said. "Second, it will encourage exploitation of the mass society by raising hate issues. Third, it would discourage the raising of important liberal issues such as unemployment and urban decay," Bachrach said.

When asked if he thought national initiative issues would be very different from statewide initiative issues, Bachrach said, "Because it would take so much money to get something on a national initiative, it would have to be some kind of legislation that would have an emotional base among the voters. That kind of issue would be along the lines which I was suggesting—hate issues."

(CPNS)



The Last Colony

TROUBLE ON THE BOTTOM LINE

Pick a number...

IN late January, city council members received a report generated by the city's new financial management computer. Including federal and local funds, the computer forecast a large end-of-the-year surplus for the school system, police and fire departments and a smaller but significant surplus for the corrections department. Slightly more than one month later, city council members received a report generated by the same financial management computer. Based on local appropriations, the school system, fire and police departments would, the report predicted, end up the fiscal year with a four to five million dollar deficit each and the corrections department would be \$11 million in the hole.

In early March one of the mayor's key aides looked at both documents and remarked that he didn't believe either of them.

S

AROUND three a.m., Monday March 3, Councilmember Hilda Mason was awakened by a call from the mayor's command center. Would she please answer the door so a courier could deliver to her the mayor's new financial plan? But, she said, no one was at the door. The package finally arrived addressed to her at 1429 Roxanna Rd. NW. Ms. Mason lives at 1459 Roxanna Rd. NW. Her husband recalls that her reaction was: "If I can't believe the numbers on the front of the envelope how can I believe the ones inside?"

S

IN February, on the same day on the same page of the same Washington Post, Mayor Barry was quoted in two different stories. In one he said that the city was not yet in a fiscal crisis. In the other, he said he could not provide more funds to fight crime because the city was facing a fiscal crisis.

S

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM Packet #24 produced in January, forecast a school system surplus at the end of the fiscal year of around \$40 million.

On February 20, Vince Reed was quoted in the Washington Post as saying the school system faced a deficit of up to \$28 million.

On the same day school board president Calvin Lockridge was quoted as saying, "We don't know if we're overspending or underspending."

On March 3, a document released by the mayor (called "Exhibit 1") projected a school system deficit of \$5 million by the end of the year at current spending rates.

The mayor, in his financial program, proposed that the school

system be required to cut its budget by \$6 million. But his Fiscal Year 1980 Savings Program, released March 2, makes no mention of the projected \$5 million overspending. Depending on how you looked at it, the school system was being asked to cut its budget \$6 million -- or maybe cut spending by \$11 million. Then on March 7, the Post reported that Barry would not seek the additional funds the school board said it needed to "stave off an anticipated \$20 million deficit in this year's school budget."

S

The school system used to have its own computerized accounting system. According to several sources, it worked moderately well. When the city's new FMS computer came in, the school system was forced to switch.

Recently, someone went to the FMS to find out how the school system was doing this year in its expenditures of federal Title One money. You have to tell the feds regularly how much you've spent before they give you your next apportionment. Title One pays a lot of teachers salaries, but according to the FMS machine the only money used had been for supplies. The salaries apparently hadn't made it into the FMS machine.

S

"I'd advise you to be very careful with any figures you use and where you get them from." --Marion Barry to the city hall press, March 3.

Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of Congress? Boss Shepherd knows.

In wending one's way through the budget morass, one important thing to keep in mind is the difference between what should be and what is. It is not clear that Mayor Barry has made this distinction. One can agree entirely with the mayor on the righteousness of a larger federal payment but it is quite another thing to put it in as a major part of one's financial rescue plan -- at least until there are some signs that a reasonable number of members of Congress agree.

It was a little over a hundred years ago that another DC government made its plans on the basis of what should be. Boss Shepherd overspent his budget by around \$13 million, a lot in those days. When criticized on the Hill, the city produced an

analysis that was remarkably evocative of Barry's current defense of the city's financial situation. In its report to the president in 1872, the Board of Public Works pointed out that the federal government had acquired title to about four-fifths of the entire area of the City of Washington without any cost to the people of the United States. It noted the city had been laid out "on a plan whose magnificent proportions could not fail to impoverish the most opulent city," and that if the lots donated to the federal government were now in the possession of the city "they would afford ample means for every local improvement desired, and at the same time provide a fund sufficient to maintain the streets and avenues permanently in repair." And the board pointed out that the per-capita debt of the District was less than that of New York, Boston, Brooklyn, Jersey City, Elizabeth, Portland or Rochester.

When the argument was over, DC lost its modicum of self-government for nearly a century. Righteousness didn't have enough votes.

Ten mistakes the city didn't have to make

- BELIEVING THAT MONEY WAS A SYNONYM FOR PROGRESS: When they leave your checkbook, each of your tax dollars is worth the same. When they hit city hall, however, their value starts to vary markedly. The dollars that go, say, to the fire department or the motor vehicles division get a fair rate of exchange. The ones that go to the schools or the police are substantially devalued. And those directed to the planning office become virtually worthless script. In the government there is no bonus for excellence or penalty for indolence. The public and politicians have largely accepted this as a given. It has been quite expensive to do so.

- BELIEVING IN SYMBOLIC GOVERNMENT AND HYPOTHETICAL PROGRESS: A major characteristic of the DC government over the past fifteen years has been a trend away from measurable service towards acts of economic faith and political symbolism. If we had simply eliminated all programs whose major justification was a theoretical improvement in the city's tax base, we would today probably have a budget surplus.

The most expensive acts of symbolic government were those de-

dicated to the proposition that seeing is believing. Metro, for example, was a physical incarnation of our desire to do something about traffic jams and pollution. It did not, in fact, reduce traffic more than marginally and had little effect on pollution. It was, rather, a totem of our intent to deal with these problems. It is now costing us \$10 million more annually for this totem than it did five years ago.

The convention center is a statue in honor of our politicians' desire to help big business; new schools were built as a monument to our concern for better education rather than as a manifestation of better education; new libraries were a tribute to our concern for knowledge and were built even as the library system's operating budget was being squeezed; new police stations, symbolizing our concern about crime, were built and when they didn't work too well we built new courthouses and a new jail to symbolize our growing concern about crime. And so forth.

But not every act of symbolic government has involved physical structures. There are, for instances, various mayoral offices of symbolic, rather than substantive, importance -- covering such areas as latino affairs, the aging and cultural matters. While it is true that in each of these fields there is much to be done, the fact is that these particular offices don't do it very well, nor were they designed to. They were created as special interest massage parlors and have largely filled this role.

Then there is The Plan. The Plan is a symbolic structure that will fit on a tabletop. Increasing sums of public funds have gone into plans in recent years.

Like a building, The Plan is not the thing it symbolizes, but it differs from a building in two important respects:

- A building, even if misleading in its symbolism, can be used for something. If worse comes to worse you can always sell it. A plan however, has no potential for unexpected ancillary advantage. It either does what it sets out to do or it doesn't. And it has no resale value.

- Most buildings are completed. Some plans never are. As Jim Gibson explained the other day in a 23-page report on the elusive Comprehensive Plan, "The Comprehensive Plan will be a continuously evolving representation of what the city can and will do to achieve its goals for the future. . . It will be a set of guidelines for a continuing process to set directions, to solve problems and to adjust to the changing needs and realities of the District. Because of the incremental, gradual nature of change, no fixed date can be applied to the achievement of all objectives, policies and proposals expressed in the plan. Procedures for periodically updating and amending the plan will be incorporated in into the planning process."

This is just one of The Plans. Most of them are "ongoing," require updating and are in constant need of revision.

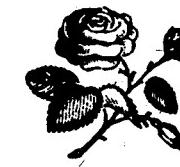
They also need coordination, detailed sub-plans, maps, surveys, inventories, data bases, consultants, components, short-range and long-range elements, programs for community participation, "an impact analysis system" that "will function throughout the plan process," a policy review board, a planning policy coordination committee, assessment of trends, amendments, technical studies, clarification, mayoral review and comment, council review and comment, ANC review and comment, citizen review and comment, inter-governmental review and comment, the management consultant's review and comment, the planning consultant's review and comment, planning teams, a work program accountability system, uniform personnel standards,

effective monitoring, drafts, frameworks, time frames, facilitation and finalization.

All this costs money. Jim Gibson, for example, wants an additional \$1.1 million to carry out his comprehensive planning for the next two years.

In sum, we not only spent too much on buildings that merely symbolized our desire to do something, we spent too much on agencies with the same purpose, and on employees who spend their governmental careers planning something, coordinating something, preparing to do something, rather than actually doing it.

- TREATING CONGRESS LIKE IT WAS A SALAD BAR: Each year, first there came the budget. Then there



Roses & Thorns

- ROSES TO MARION BARRY for naming Bernice Just as chair of the DC Board of Parole. She is one of the most concerned and sensitive people in this town and she has long experience in criminal justice.

- THORNS TO DOT for ticketing and towing delivery vehicles and construction trucks that have no place else to park. What happen to interest in the tax base folks?

- ROSES TO CHARLENE DREW-JARVIS for introducing a bill that would require city laws and regulations, as well as most contract forms, be written in plain English. The bill was drawn up with help from Plain Talk Inc., a lobby group working on behalf of people understanding each other.

- THORNS TO MARION BARRY for using the budget crisis to try to gain additional control over the DC school system. His corporation counsel, Judy Rogers, argues that the home rule charter gives the mayor broad authority to force budget cuts in the school system, regardless, apparently, whether the schools were responsible for the budget problem or not. Critics find this an excessively broad reading of the home rule charter and, besides, Barry could better spend his time putting his own house in order.

- THORNS TO THE PRESS for treating the pecadillos of Frank Shaffer-Corona as though they were the school system's major problem. Frank's exotic activities are not the reason the DC public schools are in trouble and are not even the main reason the school board doesn't function well. We need equal time for other forms of bizarre behavior at the Presidential Building.

- THORNS TO WALTER FAUNTRY for giving aid and comfort to the Hilton Hotel in its fight to expand into a residential neighborhood. In a recent newsletter Fauntroy wrote: "The concern for the tenants must be weighed against our desperate need for viable economic development. . . We are hoping some progress may be made in arriving at a solution that satisfies the hotel's need to grow and the desire to maintain affordable, needed housing." What are they going to do, Walter, rent rooms at the Hilton?

- THORNS TO THE BARRY ADMINISTRATION for continuing plans to use the city's bond-selling capacity (when and if it gets it) to hawk conduit bonds for the expansion of George Washington University. GW has done well enough on its own, is academe's answer to Oliver Carr, does little for the city and should be told to go elsewhere for its money.

- ROSES JOSEPH GRANO, DAVID MCKILLOP AND ANNE SWEARINGEN, all of whom wrote letters to the Post pointing out the inconsistency in an earlier letter from Oliver Carr urging a permanent draft. Carr wrote, "There is little evidence that this 'me-first' society has by its actions set standards that would excite its youth to lay down their books to pick up arms in defense of the homeland. Simplicity, virtue and service have not been the hallmarks of our time." The letter writers suggested that Carr was not setting such a good example to the young by tearing down Rhodes Tavern.

- ROSES TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION for commencing the first study in 16 years of the unfair taxicab zones. The zone system makes a lot of sense, encouraging direct route driving and keeping out the taxi monopolies that would come in under a meter system, but the zone boundaries are badly drawn.

- THORNS TO METRO POLICE for arresting, handcuffing and booking a woman passenger for eating a cookie on a station platform. AND TO THE DC POLICE for treating jaywalkers and other minor violators the same way up on 14th Street. In the Metro situation, it is simply ludicrous; on 14th Street it is one of the things that have made matters so dangerous. As a member of the Community for Creative Non-Violence said the other day, "You don't resolve (next page)

ROSES Cont'd

anything by sending two people at the bottom of the pyramid to fight each other." Put away the handcuffs and just write a ticket for lord's sake.

- ROSE TO FLORENCE TATE, the mayor's former press secretary, for doing a hard job honestly and well.

- THORNS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE DEVELOPERS COMMISSION for its cover on the fall issue of The Avenue Report. There, in silhouette, was the Old Post Office Building that PADC once wanted to destroy and the statue of Boss Shepherd which it has put away in storage.

- ROSES TO FORTUNE MAGAZINE for telling the truth about Metro better than the local press has. Fortune called Metro "the solid-gold Cadillac of mass transit." Says author Herman Nickel, "Given the chance to start over again [transportation experts] generally agree, Washington would be better and more cheaply served by an innovative system of express buses and car pooling, plus stern disincentives to commuting by private automobile."

- ROSES TO THE OFTEN CRITICIZED SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY for a well-turned description of the city's status problem in the February issue of Dossier, of all places. Leahy said: "As long as there is schizophrenic home rule with neither the District nor the Congress in control, you are never going to see continuity or any kind of willingness to plan for the city. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to preside over the last meeting of the DC Appropriations Subcommittee. It would mean that the situation had changed. It's not fair to the city. The federal government's involvement should be as a zoning board for the federal areas of the city; keeping the fast food chains, for example, off the Mall. Their concern should be to insure that the traditional areas are best maintained. There should, ideally, be an agreement that would produce a payment in lieu of taxes. It would be more efficient for both. The District would know what to expect and would have to work within that figure. The Congress could not bail them out. The District would have to accept the praise and the wrath and not pass the latter on to the Hill." That's a good description of the way things would be under statehood.

- THORNS TO MAYORAL AIDES AND THE POLICE for overruling the fire department's attempt to close a gay dance in a NE warehouse after inspectors found dangerous gas heaters, flimsy plywood partitions, blocked exits, no sprinkler system open paint buckets and highly flammable decorations. There are times when politics have to give way to reality. Even if you do politicize everything officials should have realized that dead constituents don't vote.

came the budget amendment, then the first supplemental, the second supplemental and so forth. This was hardly the way to impress Congress with the seriousness of our purpose, provide city agencies with a firm sense of what they could spend, or prepare people for the day when the salad bar might be closed.

ABUSING THE GOVERNMENT'S POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE JOBS: Providing jobs is an ancient and venerable function of city governments. Traditionally it worked as a combination social security and wealth redistribution system. But times have changed.

It began with Walter Washington. Washington deserves credit as the affirmative action employer of the decade. He added about ten thousand black jobs to the city payroll. In keeping with the economic spirit of the times, he achieved this by simply expanding the size of the city government, an option not open to most private employers faced with EEOC goals.

But while adding jobs for blacks, the city simultaneously was involved in a phenomenon typical of all levels of government: shifting employment away from opportunities for the less skilled and educated towards those for a proliferating middle income managerial class. The absolute number of clerical jobs that someone with only a DC high school education could get, for example, declined to a mere handful as the government expanded.

Thus, in Washington, as elsewhere, government became a make-work program not for the poor but for the

better educated. And, as elsewhere, the expense was not only indicated by personnel costs. There were the less obvious expenses: consultants, grants obtained by outside members of the managerial class, and the professional costs involved for citizens and businesses as a result of the increased paper production of the city government. The government not only subsidized its workers by employment, but indirectly subsidized lawyers, accountants, consultants and other professionals, helping to produce a major change in the sociological character of urban employment. Further, since much of the work created was far more superfluous than the older form of make-work, productivity declined substantially.

Not only did costs go up, but the redistributive effect of government spending was diminished. Instead of the affluent paying to help support the poor, one segment of the middle class was subsidizing another segment's government employment.

NOT ADDING HOW TO ADD AND SUBTRACT: With startling regularity the figures simply didn't add up. Politicians tend to be mathematically sub-literate and, even when they know better, often treat numbers as though they were just another adjective whose hyperbolic content could be adjusted according to current political requirements. Reporters generally are as clumsy with figures as politicians so there was little oversight. Those who knew how to manipulate figures went merrily on their way. The public was overwhelmed by the sheer size and

fluidity of the numbers, which only gained significance when attached to a property tax bill. By that time it was too late to do anything.

•ACCEPTING THE GREAT MYTH OF AMERICAN POLITICS: This myth states that the fiscally sound are mean and conversely to be compassionate one must be extravagant. Indifference to fiscal consequences has been one of the great errors of liberals and progressives, giving aid and comfort to the political enemy as worthy programs flounder on the rocks of fiscal irresponsibility and unworthy programs squander money that could have been used for the worthy ones. Those who believe that government ought to be compassionate should have been more careful not to give compassion a bad name.

•FAILING TO DECENTRALIZE: One of the great trends of the recent past has been consolidation of governmental services. When in doubt reorganize. We created the behemoth Department of Human Resources (just now being tentatively broken up), the police consolidated their precincts; great effort and some money was spent on regionalizing functions, and, in the case of Metro, several functioning, moderately cost-effective transit systems were consolidated into one enormous fiscal tape worm. In every case, the projected savings did not occur and in some cases problems were turned into disasters. Any theoretical advantage in consolidation (i.e. savings on purchases in bulk) rapidly disappeared because of the expense of coordinating functionally or geographically disparate activities. The cost of consolidation and coordination of services is hard to compute but it must be enormous. A recent Census Bureau study, for example, notes that cities of three million or larger in 1975 required \$1,363 per person in local government spending; cities of 50,000 to 200,000 needed only \$765 and non-city governments took in \$722 per person. There is strong reason to believe that DC would have been far better served if the home rule charter had set up the eight wards as towns of 90,000 each and relegated the city government to state functions.

Some in the statehood movement, in fact, have consistently argued that one of the advantages of statehood would be that you could decentralize government -- to our social and fiscal advantage.

•OUTRAGEOUSLY SUBSIDIZING DEVELOPERS AND BIG BUSINESS: Regular (or even irregular) Gazette readers will find this too familiar to warrant detail, but remember, please, urban renewal, Metro, freeways, rezonings, PUDs, the downtown redevelopment boondoggle, Fort Lincoln and the convention center. We are talking about hundreds of millions of dollars just for such obvious costs as land acquisition, construction, planning, relocation etc. To these must be added the hidden costs. When an area like the West End is rezoned the city must provide services to the new development. It

is one thing to provide fire protection for a low density, low-rise community and another for an area of high-rise densely populated buildings. There are problems of road use, sewage disposal, and police protection. Further, if the shift is away from residential towards commuter use (as much of the city's planning has been) per-capita revenues drop sharply while the per-capita occupancy of each square foot of land goes up.

• IGNORING THE COST OF CHANGE: Related to the above is the hidden cost of change. When a new school is required to service a projected community like Fort Lincoln, the school system's resources must be redistributed in a different way. Major population shifts require new services in one place while making those in another place less cost-effective. Forced relocation causes hidden costs by creating social problems for the relocatees that may manifest themselves in increased crime, welfare costs or other fiscal problems. In other words, massive disruption of set patterns not only disrupts the social ecology of the city, but the fiscal ecology as well.

For the school system, for example, the economic problems created by declining enrollment is not solely the result of natural causes. The city has aggressively pursued an anti-family policy in its planning for years, one which inevitably leaves the school system off-balance.

Metro is a classic example of how fiscal disruption can occur. By building the subway along the most successful bus routes, we now only have to subsidize the subway but provide increasing subsidies for a bus system shorn of major sources of income.

• ALLOWING LOANS AND INTERESTS TO GET OUT OF HAND. Although there is debate over whether the city has borrowed too much over the years, the fact is that we pay out \$120 million a year just for interest. If we had not made some of the aforementioned mistakes that figure could have been a lot lower.

• NOT DEMANDING NORMAL ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES: Only now, at the last minute, do we find the city moving (with immense confusion) towards some sort of rational financial accounting procedure. The effort to get it to this point has been mammoth and tedious. Neither the press nor the public has demanded adequate accounting, disclosure or auditing. Although the city auditor's office has tried to do its best, it lacks the clout and resources that would make it really effective. We need, at the very least, an independently elected auditor or comptroller with the access and ability to keep an eye on the fiscal machinations at city hall.

• UNDERRATING THE THREAT TO OUR SUFFRAGE. The current fiscal crisis is also a political one. On the one hand we say we want more self-government and then, on the other, we constantly take advantage of our dependent status to gain fiscal

advantage. This attitude is a terrible drag on our hopes of future autonomy and there now exists the real danger that Congress might once again retrieve some of what it has granted. As Senator Thomas Eagleton said once of the relations between Congress and the city: "The lord giveth and the lord taketh away."

Six mistakes Congress didn't have to make

While Barry must share some of the blame for the mistakes the city has made over the years he is quite correct in saying that Congress must bear considerable blame as well. Whether it will or not is another matter. Anyway, here are some of the major mistakes Congress has made that have contributed to the current mess:

• REDUCING, IN RELATIVE TERMS, THE FEDERAL PAYMENT: From Fiscal Year 1975 through Fiscal Year 1980, the city's appropriated budget has risen 50%. Within that, total salary increases have gone up 319%, the Metro operating subsidy has gone up 810%, Medicaid costs have gone up 187%. The federal payment has only gone up 5.3%. Barry calls this "criminal." He is right.

• NOT ALLOWING THE CITY TO ACCUMULATE A SURPLUS: While members of Congress complain about deficits,

they hate a surplus more. When Congress found out that the ANCs were saving money to put to future use, it cut the ANC budget. When the city has accumulated a surplus, Congress has used the money to cut the federal payment. This is no way to encourage thrift and economical government.

• NOT ALLOWING THE CITY TO IMPOSE A COMMUTER TAX: Most large cities have such a tax but pressure from suburban congressmembers has prevented us from having one. The congressional prohibition on a commuter tax is what led the court to rule the professional tax illegal. The prohibition has no function except of the most parochial political nature. It has cost us hundreds of millions in potential revenues.

• ENCOURAGING THE CITY TO GET IN OVER ITS HEAD: The prime example is Metro, which is an extravagance that no other city -- and apparently not even Washington -- could afford. Congress encourages us to get started on some mammoth project like the RFK Stadium, the convention center or Metro, then wants to know why we can't pay the bills. There is nothing new about all this. The federal government did the same thing with the C & O Canal. As a result the city almost went bankrupt for the first, but not the last, time.

• MIXING LARGE AND SMALL CONCERNs: In 1800 Augustus Woodward said of the city's status: "No poli-

WHAT'S HAPPENING

APRIL 7: REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR MAY PRIMARY.

APRIL 10: SHERIDAN SCHOOL EXTENDED EDUCATION PROGRAM for adults begins. Various courses like architectural design, CPR training and Chinese cooking. Call 362-7900.

THRU APRIL 15: Free assistance for DC residents in filling out DC tax forms. Contact the Department of Finance and Revenue at 727-6170 to find out locations.

APRIL 26: ANTI-NUCLEAR MARCH AND RALLY. Sponsored by the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World. Info: 544-5228

MAY 2-3: "COMBATTING RACISM IN THE WOMENS MOVEMENT. Forum at GWU Marvin Center sponsored by the DC Area Feminist Alliance. Call Laureen France at 466-2400 for information.

MAY 16: DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT AS CAMP COUNSELLOR FOR REC DEPT. Info on applications, 576-6297.

THRU JUNE 14: EXHIBIT ON THE HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, Woodrow Wilson House, 2340 S NW, 10-2 Tu-Fri, Noon-4, weekends and holidays.

REGULAR EVENTS

SUNDAYS: THE ELDERLY REPORT, news and issues of interest to the elderly. Channel 4, 7am & 11am.

MISC

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS: For info on tax credits, cash rebates and tax deferral call 727-6103.

MOVEMENT FOR A NEW SOCIETY: This organization is developing a community mediation project. For information, assistance in solving a dispute or a copy of their brochure, call the Peace Center at 234-2000 and ask for the Community Mediation Project.

FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Youth for Understanding is offering financial assistance to 25 DC high school students (14-18) to live abroad for either a summer or a full year. Info: Mrs. Trula Duane, 938-8595

VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED: Call Literacy Action at 387-7775

CETA JOBS FOR ARTISTS, DANCERS, MUSICIANS ETC: Sixty CETA positions are available for unemployed or underemployed DC residents in the arts. Call ARTS DC at 727-3412.

cy can be worse than to mingle great and small concerns. The latter become absorbed in the former; are neglected and forgotten." Congress has never stopped mixing large and small concerns. To prove to the nation that he could do something about crime, President Nixon added 2000 cops to the force -- and the expense of paying for them. To appease various special interests, members of Congress have forced on the city various ill-found policies, such as the freeway programs of the fifties and sixties. Congress has never decided whether it wanted DC to be a model city or a pork barrel for its friends.

- ALLOWING SUBURBAN MEMBERS TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE CITY: Although there is little criticism of these folk with the passage of Joel Broyhill, the fact is that suburban representation on the various District committees is a blatant conflict of interest that has cost us dearly. To do anything we not only need the approval of the whole Congress but we must appease the suburban lobby. Our transportation planning and the lack of a commuter tax are prime examples.

- APPROVING BUT NOT FUNDING PENSION PROGRAMS: The pension story makes a mockery of all professed congressional concern for fiscal responsibility. Once again Barry is quite right in demanding that Congress put its money where its mouth was.

How much is Barry to blame?

How much of the mess is the Barry administration's fault? This is a hard question to answer until someone sorts out all of the numbers, but based on Barry's own figures it would appear that:

- His administration underestimated revenues by 8.3 million dollars.

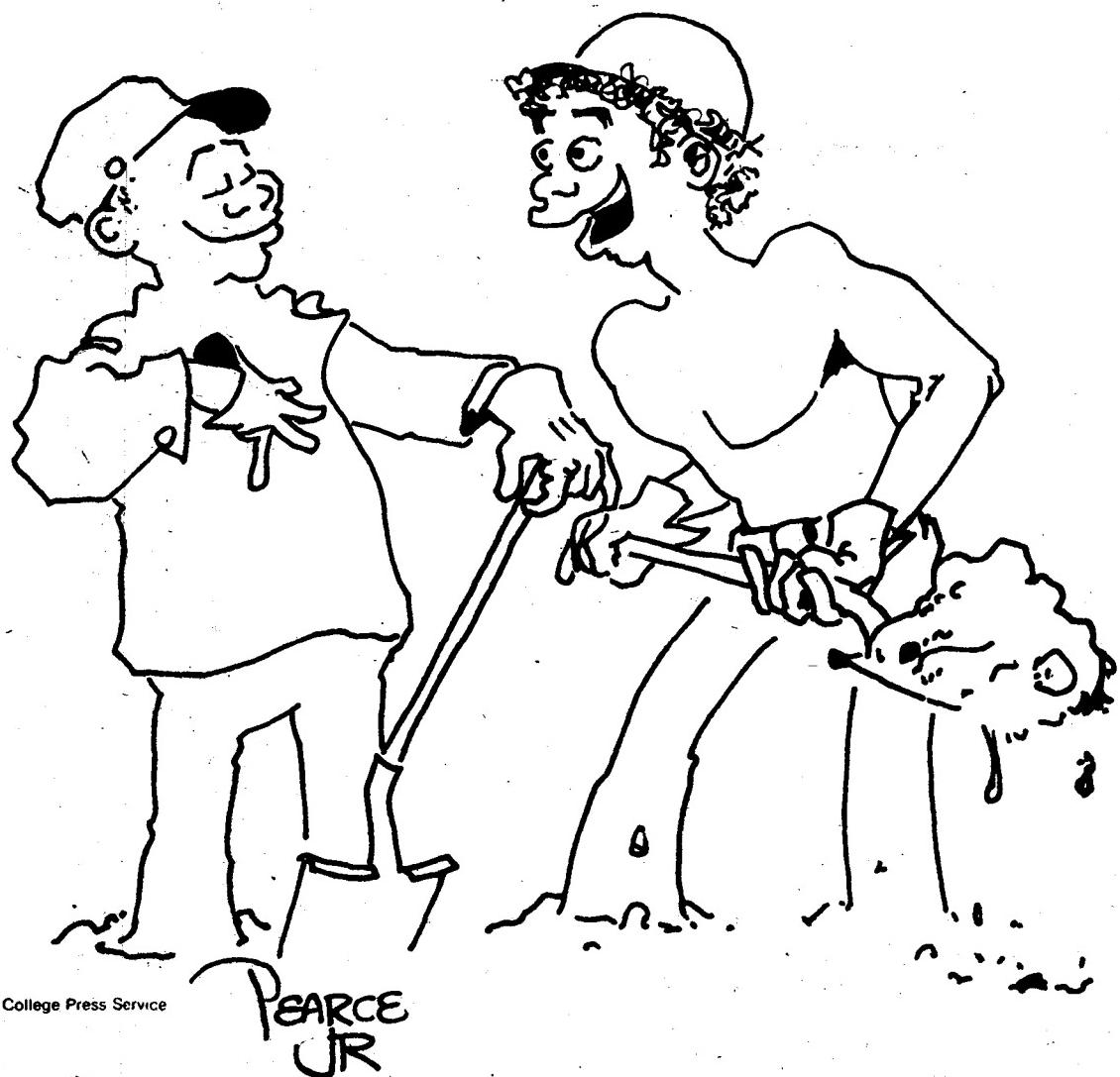
- It has been overspending this year at a substantial rate. After giving him credit for an unanticipated 2% in pay hikes and for overages in the school system where he does not have control, his early March figures indicate that at current rates, the government would have overspent by \$40 million by the end of the year.

- It would appear that the city also overspent last year by at least \$20 million since that is the amount still owed the Treasury on short-term borrowing from that period.

- Based on past budget practice, about \$8.5 million of the \$29.3 million pension shortage should have been provided for.

- Thus, about \$77 million -- or about 5% of the city's total budget, can be laid at the doorstep of the Barry administration.

But as we say, these figures may be quite inaccurate. Not only is the computerized financial system proving highly unreliable, but there are a number of doubts about the accuracy of the mayor's presentation to date. These questions include the



College Press Service

"NOT THE DR. BURNHAM WHOSE DOCTORAL THESIS IN BLACK SEXUAL REPRESSION WAS THE BASIS FOR MY POST-GRADUATE WORK IN BLACK STUDIES!"

exact status of borrowing with the US Treasury, the availability of funds to pay the existing Metro debt and other matters. At times like this, one shouldn't be too surprised if another \$20 million shows up missing or if this budget crisis is only the first in a quarterly or semi-annual series.

Further, some critics of the Barry administration lay responsibility for the \$48.5 in lost professional tax funds (if the court demands refunds) on Barry. They say Barry, as chair of the council's finance and revenue committee, ignored warnings that the professional tax was of doubtful legality.

Understanding megabucks

When politicians and the press start throwing out numbers like \$172 million it's hard to conceive what they mean. The easiest way is to convert them to numbers you do understand. For example:

- The city's budget is \$1.384 billion. That works out to about \$2000 for each man, woman and child. If you are part of a family consisting of one man, woman and child, that's \$6000 as your share of keeping the Incredible Hulk going. Put another way, the \$172 million deficit that is being bandied about represents about \$250 a head.

- Or convert it into property tax dollars. You could raise \$200 million by roughly increasing

everyone's property tax 100%. To close a \$172 million gap you could raise everyone's property tax 85%.

- Or since our beloved convention center is meant to cost a nice round \$100 million, convert the deficit figure into convention centers. The deficit of \$172 million can also be thought of as a deficit of 1.72 convention centers. See how simple it becomes?

Understanding megataxes

The mayor and the press have constantly referred to a tax increase of \$24 million. The problem is that figure is the amount that needs to be raised in the last quarter of this fiscal year. The annual tax and user charge increase being sought is actually \$90 million -- or using our handy conversion system, the city wants to raise taxes by almost one convention center in one year.

A partial list of proposed cuts

Even with such a massive tax increase, the mayor and other officials project that certain cuts in services will be necessary to bring the budget back into line. Here are some of them:

- Reducing the police department by 90 uniformed and 30 civilian personnel.

- A reduction in traffic control in off-peak hours.
- A reduction in Department of Corrections personnel by 360 employees with accompanying reductions in program, security, medical and support staff at facilities.
- Delaying the opening of UDC by one or two weeks.
- Closing the DC schools early in June or opening late in the fall.
- Reducing housing inspections
- Closing portions of Cedar Knoll.
- Delaying the opening of the J.B. Johnson nursing home.
- Cutting back on special trash collections, street and alley cleanings and special neighborhood cleanups.
- Reducing the DC General Hospital staff by 47.
- Reducing street and traffic signal repair and limiting funds for snow removal.
- Delaying the opening of the Deanwood branch library and reducing book purchases by \$200,000.
- Closing some recreation centers, reducing hours at others and shortening the outdoor swimming pool season.
- Reducing DC-funded summer jobs for youth by 20%.

The bottom line

Walter Washington used to love to talk about the bottom line. Well, we've reached the bottom line, folks, and the number there is in parentheses. The way out is not going to be easy. In coming weeks we will see some politicians talking about cuts they know will get people mad and ready to accept some tax increases. We will see other politicians saying that they will vote for no tax increase, all the time realizing that there is no way we are going to get more money from Congress without some sacrifice from the taxpayer as well as government employees. And we will find government employee unions becoming increasingly belligerent as the ax begins to fall. We have no secret formula for getting out of this mess, but a few principles might make the going easier:

- There should be a full debate between all the alternatives. As of this date, most of the attention has been focussed on the mayor's solution. It has some good parts and some weaknesses. It is overfull of hope and fails to deal with long-range corrective action. Others have thoughts too, like city auditor Matthew Watson who has proposed that all city employees take two weeks leave without pay as a way of raising \$35 million. This plan would in a sense be a loan from the employees since they would still accumulate their paid leave to be used at a later date.

- We need to know where we are going. At this point, no one has proposed anything but a fiscal jury rig to get us through the year. The mayor can't ask for \$90 million in new taxes or a large increase in the federal payment without a plan to prevent a reoccurrence of this mess next year and the year after that.

Taxpayers, in particular, should demand a program from the mayor that details how he will put the city government on a more fiscally responsible course.

- We need to learn from our past mistakes. We should stop spending money that commits us to spend more in the future, like building the convention center and extending Metro. We can no longer afford to speculate on some consultant's dream of what is going to happen to the city's tax base.

In the many words we have read and heard about the budget crisis, few have concerned how we change the city government structurally so that these problems don't merely come back each year with compound interest.

DC EYE

FEDERAL grants are available to groups and individuals who want to demonstrate energy saving ideas. To get a copy of the application form, call the DC Energy Hotline at 724-2100.

EUGENE KINLOW has come up with a list of some of the pros and cons concerning an academic high school in DC. Here are some of the pros:

- It would provide for ability grouping; encourage parents to keep their children in public schools; provide an incentive for high schools citywide to bring their programs to higher standards; require no new funding; and provide positive peer status for students involved.

est. The short-range solutions which are being discussed do not address this question. Unless somebody does, this is only the first of many such crises.

The answer lies in making the government significantly smaller, restoring service as its main duty, decentralizing its functions to a level where the public can effectively monitor what the government is doing, and ending a decade and a half of shameless abuse of the city's revenues to subsidize large commercial interests of little economic or social purpose.

At this time, no one at city hall seems ready to move in this direction. Thus we must expect that what we are seeing now is about to become a regular part of our lives.

Here are some of the cons:

- It would begin the return to tracking, would cater to an able few while sanctioning underachievement for the larger school population; would be tacit admission that CBC had failed; would be a band-aid approach to dealing with low scores; would create an anachronism -- another Dunbar; would allow us to fool ourselves that the problems of the schools had been solved; would create a "private" public school; and/or would acknowledge that the system is failing to educate all of its students.

The Institute for Public Law has come up with a fifteen-page comparison of the various housing bills now before the city council. To get a free copy call the institute at 624-8235.



ROADSIGNS

- THE DC MEDICAL SOCIETY reported that last year there were 49 cases of TB in the city per 100,000 residents compared to a national average of 13 per 100,000 people. Dr. Vinod Mody, chair of communicable diseases at Howard University said, "The situation in the city has reached epidemic proportions."

- THE FCC unanimously approved the transfer of WGTB-FM's broadcast licence to UDC. UDC pledged to provide a combination of Caribbean, Spanish, classical, oldies-but-goodies, and cultural music from around the world; along with traditional African music and 15 percent of airtime for instructional programming. The Alliance to Preserve Radio at Georgetown had over 24,000 signatures on petitions urging retention of the GU license.

- AT LEAST FOUR suburban counties are considering dropping Metrobus system, according to an article in the Washington Star. Local transit staffs are being ordered to explore cheaper alternatives.

- WALTER FAUNTRY attacked the FBI for bringing in busloads of applicants from Baltimore to fill 1000 low-level clerical jobs instead of hiring DC residents.

- THE DC SCHOOL BOARD is once again considering establishing an academic high school.

- THE DC GOVERNMENT has proposed a five cent increase in local bus fares during rush hours and a ten cent increase during non-rush hours. It would be the first increase in three years. There will be a public hearing at the Metro Building on April 9 at 730 pm.

THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

GUIDE TO THE SEASHELLS OF NORTH AMERICA: Hundreds of shells shown in full color with descriptive text so you can identify those beach treasures. \$4.95.

THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE: As the Boston Globe put it: "No book in shorter space with fewer words, will help any writer more than this persistent little volume." By William Strunk and E.B. White. \$1.95

MEATLESS MEALS FOR VEGETARIANS AND WOULD-BE VEGETARIANS: Now in its tenth printing, this handy little volume offers a variety of fine recipes. \$1.95

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EVERY ROOM A GARDEN: How to decorate your home with plants. Where to put them, how to care for them, how to light them, what to do when things go wrong. Over 300 illustrations. \$6.95

BOYSCOUT FIELDBOOK: This is a handy book for anyone taking to the outdoors. More than 1200 wilderness skills and activities discussed. \$4.95.

JUMP ROPE!: Rope lore, jumping for your health, all the rope games, rope rhymes and much more in this excellent book. \$3.95.

WINE-MAKING AT HOME: A complete guide to crushing, fermenting, aging and bottling your own wine. \$2.75

FARMING IN A FLOWERPOT: How to grow vegetables and fruits in small containers. \$2.75

TOYBOOK: Turtle racers, moustaches and more than 50 other good toys to make with children. \$4.95.

STICKS AND STONES AND ICE CREAM CONES: Crafts in a child's world. Lovely things to make by hand. Games and happenings and celebrations. Playthings from other lands. How to plan parties plus a full length play with costume and set designs. \$4.95.

NEEDLEPOINT FROM AMERICA'S GREAT QUILT DESIGNS: Over fifty classic patterns to needlepoint each presented with full color and black and white photographs and large stitch by stitch diagrams. \$5.95.

PLAY BOOK: More than 70 spontaneous and inventive things to do for children in all sorts of places. From the practical to the just plain fun. \$4.95.

THE KID'S KITCHEN TAKEOVER: How to mess around, cook up a storm and start your own bread business, too. Over 120 things to cook, make, grow, and do in and out of the kitchen. \$5.95.

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THE HOLISTIC HEALTH HANDBOOK: A guide to holistic health in its many forms. Compiled by the Berkeley Holistic Health Center. \$9.95.

COOKING UNDER PRESSURE: An excellent guide to pressure-cooking. \$3.

100 FAVORITE FOLK TALES: "If you buy only one fairy tale book a year, buy this." — New York Times. \$5.95

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THE SOLAR HOME BOOK: The first book to deal honestly with the drawbacks and blessings of home solar heating and cooling. Simple yet complete, with a wealth of photos, drawings and diagrams. \$7.50

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY SOURCEBOOK: Written specifically with non-experts in mind, this sourcebook identifies the existing small-scale technology. Dozens of tools, books and techniques for food production, home construction, health care, energy sources, etc., are outlined and reviewed. \$4.

ROGET'S POCKET THESAURUS: \$1.50

THE BIG DUMMY'S GUIDE TO CB RADIO: Packed with information for the CBer or potential CBer. Includes a glossary and the ten-code, which you can also use for literary allusions or to amaze your children. \$2.95

BASIC WIRING: A money-saving guide to electrical repairs and renovations inside your house and out. Well-illustrated. \$5.95

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THE PEOPLE'S SILKSCREEN BOOK: A simple, comprehensive, step-by-step guide to silk screening. Learn to build the equipment, re-prepare images and print on paper, T-shirts. Illustrations and bibliography. \$1.95.

FOOD CO-OPS FOR SMALL GROUPS: A handbook for those who belong or would like to start food co-ops. \$2.95.